



# Labor Market Analysis for Program Recommendation

## Dental Assisting Occupations

### Foothill College

Prepared by the San Francisco Bay Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research

June 2023

#### Recommendation

Based on all available data, there appears to be an “undersupply” of Dental Assisting workers compared to the demand for this cluster of occupations in the Bay region and in the Silicon Valley sub-region (Santa Clara county). There is a projected annual gap of about 1,501 students in the Bay region and 361 students in the Silicon Valley Sub-Region.

#### Introduction

This report provides student outcomes data on employment and earnings for TOP 1201.00 - Health Occupations, General programs in the state and region. It is recommended that these data be reviewed to better understand how outcomes for students taking courses on this TOP code compare to potentially similar programs at colleges in the state and region, as well as to outcomes across all CTE programs at Foothill College and in the region.

This report profiles Dental Assisting Occupations in the 12 county Bay region and in the Silicon Valley sub-region for a proposed new Dental Assisting Apprenticeship program at Foothill College.

- **Dental Assistants (31-9091):** Assist dentist, set up equipment, prepare patient for treatment, and keep records.  
 Entry-Level Educational Requirement: Postsecondary nondegree award  
 Training Requirement: None  
 Percentage of Community College Award Holders or Some Postsecondary Coursework: 58%

#### Occupational Demand

**Table 1. Employment Outlook for Dental Assisting Occupations in Bay Region**

Occupation	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	5-yr Change	5-yr % Change	5-yr Total Openings	Annual Openings	25% Hourly Earning	Median Hourly Wage
Dental Assistants	11,720	12,910	1,190	10%	9,930	1,986	\$21	\$26
Total	11,720	12,910	1,190	10%	9,930	1,986	\$21	\$26

Source: Lightcast 2022.3

**Bay Region includes:** Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma Counties

**Table 2. Employment Outlook for Dental Assisting Occupations in Silicon Valley Sub-region**

Occupation	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	5-yr Change	5-yr % Change	5-yr Total Openings	Annual Openings	25% Hourly Earning	Median Hourly Wage
Dental Assistants	3,001	3,390	389	13%	2,648	530	\$22	\$27
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,001</b>	<b>3,390</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>2,648</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>\$22</b>	<b>\$27</b>

Source: Lightcast 2022.3

Silicon Valley Sub-Region includes: Santa Clara County

**Job Postings in Bay Region and Silicon Valley Sub-Region****Table 3. Number of Job Postings by Occupation for latest 12 months**

Occupation	Bay Region	Silicon Valley
Dental Assistants	968	230

Source: Lightcast

**Table 4a. Top Job Titles for Dental Assisting Occupations for latest 12 months - Bay Region**

Title	Bay	Title	Bay
Dental Assistants	391	Endodontic Dental Assistants	8
Registered Dental Assistants	280	Assistant Managers in Training	6
Orthodontic Assistants	44	Administrative Assistants	5
Dental Assistants/Registered Dental Assistants	28	Orthodontists	5
Oral Surgery Assistants	26	Dental Assistants/Front Desk	4
Orthodontic Dental Assistants	21	Expanded Function Dental Assistants	4
Pediatric Dental Assistants	17	Experience Coordinators	4
Dental Assistants/Receptionist	16	Front Office Assistants	4
Dental Assistant Externs	9	Lead Registered Dental Assistants	4

Source: Lightcast

**Table 4b. Top Job Titles for Dental Assisting Occupations for latest 12 months - Silicon Valley Sub-Region**

Title	Silicon Valley	Title	Silicon Valley
Dental Assistants	95	Front Office Assistants	2
Registered Dental Assistants	69	Lead Registered Dental Assistants	2
Orthodontic Assistants	12	Sterilization Assistants	2
Oral Surgery Assistants	9	Surgery Assistants	2
Dental Assistants/Registered Dental Assistants	6	Administrative Assistants	1

Title	Silicon Valley	Title	Silicon Valley
Dental Assistants/Receptionist	4	Clinical Liaisons	1
Orthodontic Dental Assistants	3	Cosmetic Dentists	1
Receptionists/Office Assistants	3	Dental Assistants/Front Desk	1
Endodontic Dental Assistants	2	Dental Receptionists/Dental Assistants	1

Source: Lightcast

## Industry Concentration

**Table 5. Industries hiring Dental Assisting Workers in Bay Region**

Industry - 6 Digit NAICS (No. American Industry Classification) Codes	Jobs in Industry (2021)	Jobs in Industry (2026)	% Change (2021-26)	% Occupation Group in Industry (2022)
Offices of Dentists	10,781	11,886	10%	92%
HMO Medical Centers	324	383	18%	3%
Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)	99	104	5%	1%

Source: Lightcast 2022.3

**Table 6. Top Employers Posting Dental Assisting Occupations in Bay Region and Silicon Valley Sub-Region**

Employer	Bay	Employer	Silicon Valley
Pediatric Dentistry	25	D Michael Miller D.D.S	7
Western Dental Services	25	Dental Office	3
Pacific Dental Services	22	Kids Care Dental	3
D Michael Miller D.D.S	21	Mountain View Hospital	3
Ideal Dental	12	Nancy Trinh DDS	3
Kids Care Dental	10	Ravenswood Family Health Center	3
DOCS Health	9	Western Dental Services	3

Source: Lightcast

## Educational Supply

There are 10 community colleges in the Bay Region issuing 87 awards on average annually (last 3 years ending 2019-20) on TOP 1201.00 - Health Occupations, General. In the Silicon Valley Sub-Region, there are two (2) community colleges that issued 47 awards on average annually (last 3 years) on this TOP code.

There are nine (9) community colleges in the Bay Region issuing 187 awards on average annually (last 3 years ending 2019-20) on TOP 1240.10 – Dental Assistant. In the Silicon Valley Sub-Region, there are two (2) community colleges that issued 66 awards on average annually (last 3 years) on this TOP code.

There are an seven (7) other CTE educational institutions in the Bay Region issuing 211 awards on average annually (last 3 years ending 2019-20) on CIP 51.0601 - Dental Assisting/Assistant. There is one (1) other CTE educational institution in the Silicon Valley Sub-Region issuing 56 awards on average annually (last 3 years) on this TOP code.

**Table 7a. Community College Awards on TOP 1201.00 - Health Occupations, General in Bay Region**

College	Subregion	Associate Degree	Low unit Certificate	Total
Chabot	East Bay	2	0	2
Contra Costa	East Bay	4	11	15
Diablo Valley	East Bay	8	0	8
Foothill	Silicon Valley	46	0	46
Hartnell	SC-Monterey	8	0	8
Las Positas	East Bay	3	0	3
San Francisco	Mid-Peninsula	1	0	1
Santa Rosa	North Bay	1	0	1
Skyline	Mid-Peninsula	2	0	2
West Valley	Silicon Valley	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>87</b>

Source: Data Mart

Note: The annual average for awards is 2017-18 to 2019-20.

**Table 7b. Community College Awards on TOP 1240.10 - Dental Assistant in Bay Region**

College	Subregion	Associate Degree	Low unit Certificate	High unit Certificate	Total
Alameda	East Bay	10	0	17	27
Diablo Valley	East Bay	7	0	8	15
Foothill	Silicon Valley	11	0	11	22
Marin	North Bay	3	0	16	19
Monterey	East Bay	2	10	0	12
San Francisco	Mid-Peninsula	4	0	11	15
San Jose	Silicon Valley	7	0	37	44
San Mateo	Mid-Peninsula	3	0	8	11
Santa Rosa	North Bay	0	21	1	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>187</b>

Source: Data Mart

Note: The annual average for awards is 2017-18 to 2019-20.

**Table 7c. Other CTE Institutions Awards on CIP 51.0601 - Dental Assisting/Assistant in Bay Region**

College	Subregion	Associate Degree	Award < 1 academic yr.	Postsecondary awards	Total
Blake Austin College	North Bay	0	0	16	16
Carrington College-Pleasant Hill Campus	East Bay	0	0	23	23
Carrington College-San Jose	Silicon Valley	29	0	27	56
Carrington College-San Leandro Campus	East Bay	0	0	25	25
Gurnick Academy of Medical Arts	Mid-Peninsula	0	0	15	15
Mt. Diablo Adult Education-Mt. Diablo USD	East Bay	0	17	6	23
Unitek College	East Bay	0	0	53	53
<b>Total</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>211</b>

College	Subregion	Associate Degree	Award < 1 academic yr.	Postsecondary awards	Total
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Source: Data Mart

Note: The annual average for awards is 2017-18 to 2019-20.

## Gap Analysis

Based on the data included in this report, there is a large labor market gap in the Bay region with 1,986 annual openings for the Dental Assisting occupational cluster and 485 annual (3-year average) awards for an annual undersupply of 1,501 students. In the Silicon Valley Sub-Region, there is also a gap with 530 annual openings and 169 annual (3-year average) awards for an annual undersupply of 361 students.

## Student Outcomes

**Table 8. Four Employment Outcomes Metrics for Students Who Took Courses on TOP 1201.00 - Health Occupations, General**

Metric Outcomes	Bay All CTE Program	Foothill All CTE Program	State 1201.00	Bay 1201.00	Silicon Valley 1201.00	Foothill 1201.00
Students with a Job Closely Related to Their Field of Study	74%	90%	76%	87%	90%	86%
Median Annual Earnings for SWP Exiting Students	\$48,926	\$67,950	\$29,476	\$37,062	\$39,198	\$40,223
Median Change in Earnings for SWP Exiting Students	23%	44%	24%	28%	29%	26%
Exiting Students Who Attained the Living Wage	50%	62%	38%	31%	27%	32%

Source: Launchboard Strong Workforce Program Median of 2018 to 2021.

## Skills, Certifications and Education

**Table 9. Top Skills for Dental Assisting Occupations in Bay Region**

Skill	Posting	Skill	Posting
Sterilization	263	Dental Surgery	81
Dentistry	210	Radiography	80
Orthodontics	131	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	72
Dentrix	130	Office Procedures	70
Oral Hygiene	126	Pediatrics	70
Coronal Polishing	122	Dental Radiography	68
Infection Control	114	Dental Care	66
Patient Preparation	111	Disinfecting	62
Dental Procedures	105	Patient Treatment	60
Oral Health	89	Oral And Maxillofacial Surgery	55

Skill	Posting	Skill	Posting
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Source: Lightcast

**Table 10. Certifications for Dental Assisting Occupations in Bay Region**

Certification	Posting	Certification	Posting
Registered Dental Assistant	359	Certified Dental Assistant	8
Radiology Certification	128	Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Certification	3
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification	81	Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Certification	2
Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification	80	American Red Cross (ARC) Certification	2
Expanded Functions Dental Assistant	18	Certified Loss Control Specialist	2
Certified Infection Control (CIC)	12	First Aid Certification	1
Valid Driver's License	10	Certified Orthodontic Assistant	1

Source: Lightcast

**Table 11. Education Requirements for Dental Assisting Occupations in Bay Region**

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Total
High school or GED	223	88%
Associate degree	18	7%
Bachelor's degree & higher	13	5%

Source: Lightcast

Note: 76% of records have been excluded because they do not include a degree level. As a result, the chart above may not be representative of the full sample.

## Methodology

Occupations for this report were identified by use of job descriptions and skills listed in O\*Net. Labor demand data is sourced from Lightcast occupation and job postings data. Educational supply and student outcomes data is retrieved from multiple sources, including CCCC Data Mart and CTE Launchboard.

## Sources

O\*Net Online  
 Lightcast  
 CTE LaunchBoard [www.calpassplus.org](http://www.calpassplus.org)  
 Launchboard  
 Statewide CTE Outcomes Survey  
 Employment Development Department Unemployment Insurance Dataset  
 Living Insight Center for Community Economic Development  
 Chancellor's Office MIS system

## Contacts

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